

Town Hall Meeting Summary
January 27, 2010
East Las Vegas Community Center

Attendance

Mayor Goodman
Mayor Pro Tempore Reese
Betsy Fretwell, City Manager
Department Directors
Ray Flinn, Assistant Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Volunteers from Americorps to provide translation services

The ballroom had 700 chairs set up for the event. All of the chairs were full and there were approximately another fifty people standing. At the beginning of the presentations, Mayor Goodman asked how many people would require translation services and a majority of people raised their hand. An Americorps volunteer translated the presentation for the Mayor and the City Manager. Americorps volunteers also translated the written questions, which are included below. At one point in the presentation, Mayor Goodman asked how many people had been recently laid off. Approximately 80% of the participants raised their hands. When asked how many people had been affected by foreclosure, approximately 40% of participants raised their hands.

Following the presentation, the moderator asked the audience if there were any questions they would like answered. Those questions included:

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT THE TOWN HALL

1. Why not have homeless people clean up trash, graffiti, etc. to save money? Use them for community service.
2. There was an article in the *Review Journal* regarding the HUD NSP2 and I want answers. If there was \$4 million to spend on 32 homes from NSP1, what happened to the rest of the money and the jobs?
3. ESL Classes are very important. What has been done to keep them going?
4. Why do the police make so many arrests [in terms of illegal immigrants] and why does the City of Las Vegas support immigration reform?
5. Mayor Goodman stated that unfortunately, when he was first elected he wanted to know all about immigration reform and found out that the Federal government has jurisdiction over immigration reform and are in charge of it and they haven't done their job on this issue.
6. Iron Workers in the audience wanted to know what the City of Las Vegas' stance is on local versus outside labor.

7. Why are the prices at the Community Center going from free to \$5 to \$15 to \$30? It is too much for us. Paradise is cheaper. We want to buy houses, but cannot buy them, you have to know this.
8. A person from the audience stated that he had lost his job in October, can't modify his home loan with Wells Fargo, and they postponed the date to sell the house, and on January 5th sent him a property foreclosure notice and notice to leave with 3 days notice. He asked the City if they can help him.

The following were questions/suggestions/comments that were submitted and will be Included in the public record.

Budget

1. How do you determine the amount allocated for the various items in the budget?
2. If you have already cut the budget by 60 million, doesn't that mean that you spent excessively?
3. How is the budget cut affecting the educational opportunities of the elderly?
4. If the state refuses to establish a lottery to help raised revenue, when will the city establish a lottery?
5. How much longer do you estimate it will take for the economy to recover and what has the Mayor done to assist with the job crisis?
6. What is the city doing to make sure we diversify our economy, so that we do not rely on tourism only?
7. If budgets cuts are occurring then why have you opened a 7.9 million center?
8. Of the 68% budget that goes to public safety, what percent goes to metro and city departments?
9. What has the city done to obtain stimulus money? Has the City put pressure on the governor to release stimulus money?
10. Raise taxes to offset the tax refunds we got back in 2006.
11. We need more assistance for us not to lose our homes.
12. Is the city doing anything regarding medical assistance for the people?
13. Reward entrepreneurs and open zoning requirements.
14. Why is the city not creating more job opportunities?

15. Why can't we get the money from Nevada banks for homeowners given by the government
16. Why can't we find a way to raise taxes on casinos?
17. What are you doing to tap into the grant writing skills of your staff to bring more revenue?
18. What is the city doing to replace the income revenue from the failing gaming in the city?
19. Can you explain about the monies from the tax initiative of 2000 for fire and rescue?
20. The city and county should consolidate to create revenue. There should a department that asses what is and is not working.
21. Raise business tax's or enforce obligatory community service for those who disregard the clean image of the City of Las Vegas.
22. Government employees should take a 3-5% pay cut & also the longevity pay should be put on hold till the economy recovers.
23. All the options involve budget cuts but none show options to make money. Raise taxes and save the city.
24. Why does the fire dept. expect their budget to remain the same, when the rest of the city endures large budget cuts and layoffs?
25. Would an 8%-16% salary reduction result in slower fire fighter or dispatcher response?
26. Why do we continue to invest in jails & marshals instead of preventive services such as recreational and community development
27. What construction projects have been put on hold because of the excessive spending
28. Who is paying to the new city hall's furniture, phone and moving expenses?
29. Collect on outstanding lien and monies owned to the city.

Fire services/safety

30. On an average, how much time does a CLV fire fighter spend fighting life threatening fires
31. It's necessary that we have the police present at our parks because there are lots of drug problems in that area. What will happen to the safety of our children at the parks if there is no police presence?

32. What is happening to the safety of our city? How are our police and fire services being affected?
33. What is being done about the harassment by police to the day laborers
34. Why do we need marshals and Metro officers?

Community Center

35. The East Las Vegas Community Center is a cornerstone for the Latinos in this area, cuts the center and staff would damage our community. What can be done to save the center?
36. What cultural programs are likely to be cut or eliminated?
37. We are thankful we have our community center available to express and cultivate our heritage. My proposal is that we keep the center open and oversee the financing ourselves by holding cultural events to pay for the community centers overhead costs.
38. How will the city substitute cultural arts programs for the Hispanic in ward#3? Rafael Riviera community center is not an option?
39. We like and enjoy the classes at the center. Where will our children go when we you stop the programs?
40. Losing cultural arts services at the east Las Vegas community center will have a negative impact on the children of this community by leading back to gang and drug activity. Why deprive the children of beneficial services?
41. The east L.V. senior center has a direct connection with the Hispanic in this community and residents. We identify ourselves with the programs and events. How can we sustain those programs?
42. We can't afford to lose the arts and cultural funding that is currently provided.
43. We need to keep our culture and arts funding?
44. This center is important to the citizen and children in our community. Keep the center open.
45. Children come to this center to improve their future.
46. Our kids depend on the community center to keep off the streets and away from drug activity. Where will they go if these services are cut back or eliminated?
What will happen to the traditional events held at the community center? These events are very important to our culture and community.

47. Are you aware of the people that assist to our most recent events? 1) United Today and Always - 300 (2) Halloween Party- 1,600 (3) the Christmas Posada 1,700, (4) Easter celebration 1,100.
48. I have attended guitar and English classes at the center and would be a disadvantage to take this away from us.
49. I feel the social and educational programs for the poor and elderly are critical to our quality of life. Can the city run a lottery to generate funds? Is it possible to have the city officials do a 4 day work week?
50. We are concerned the adult ESL will be cut further many of the children in the area rely on their parents to help them with homework. The ESL classes help the parents understand English and in turn they can help their children w/their homework.
51. Why must programs such as "Aelas" be cut? What about pay cuts for politicians and furloughs?
52. I'm a senior citizen who uses the center for art classes. Do not do away with the cultural parts of the community; acknowledge you cultural centers such as the (Smith Center, Mob Museum).
53. Please do not cut funding for arts and culture. It's one of the things we need most to become a world class city the mayor always talks about.
54. Please continue to support the cultural programs at ELVCC.
55. Please do not eliminate the English classes they are of great assistance to our community.
56. Please don't stop the English class's and the center.
57. The East LV Community Center name is confusing and does not represent the demographics of the neighborhood. What are your feelings for changing the name to "Cesar Chavez Cultural Senior Center?"
58. Are other centers closed on Sunday?
59. Mayor and MPT Reese, are you aware of all the programs available for Hispanics at this center? When was the last time you attended one of the cultural programs at this center? Give better opportunities for rental of the facility and increase bilingual employees with knowledge of Hispanic culture.
60. If general services and programs are lacking can you guarantee the little support we do get will continued?
61. What is MPT Reese doing in regards to additional funds for the community center?

62. Are other centers cutting services or is the East Las Vegas Center the only one?
63. Cut into the community rec. center s and we'll have less jobs and revenue for the city more crime.
64. Which cultural programs will be cut or eliminated?
65. Bad service is the norm for ELVCC. How can you change that so people can feel more welcomed?
66. What is the forum about? The education we get here we can't get anywhere else
67. Please keep the center open. We like performing for our community at this center.
68. What is this community doing for the Latino's? We want more representation.
69. We would like to keep the programs open.
70. How do you plan to increase Latino participation? Cut the programs that are not effective and combine some programs to save money.
71. Do you feel guilty about cutting centers that provide services to senior citizens?
72. Can we see by raise of hands, those that here to support arts and culture across the board and not specifically to one location?
73. Cultural events are very important because the families need the skills we offer. City workers make too much money, so cut their salaries.
74. We can't allow more English class reductions.
75. Some of us are willing to pay a small fee, how much wills this cost us?
76. Ward 3 encompasses many arts and cultural programs many provide by the Office of Cultural Affairs. How will this affect the overall and will they be given equal consideration?
77. What is the city doing to keep cultural programs alive?
78. Please keep the center open, this is where we come to learn English.
79. We are low income community; we need the low cost English classes.
80. We would like more variety in the classes and times they are offered.

81. We need the ELVCC to continue its cultural programs specially those geared towards Latino's to keep our kids out of the streets and out of trouble.
82. The programs at the center gives Latino are the opportunity to improve ourselves.
83. Can we have more English classes?
84. It's vital the ESL classes at the center be supported by our government officials.
85. We need all programs offered at the center.
86. We need support and funding to keep the English classes going.
87. How much money are cultural centers loosing? Keep in mind the programs when looking at the budget.
88. I'm a student in the ESL classes; I have learned a lot please do not stop the classes.
89. Is this going to affect the adult English classes that are offered throughout the district?
90. Are you considering cutting adult educational programs?
91. The fewer classes we offer, the more violence our city will see; please keep our children in mind when revising your goal.
92. Will the ELVCC continue a cultural staff area? This center is an essential cultural center for this community.
93. If the cultural dept. from the ELVCC is eliminated, what are your plans for the families and staff?
94. Can you assure us the fees for classes will not go up?
95. Senior services for Latinos are very limited at the ELVCC .How can we change that and will you assure the same programs for Latino seniors?
96. You mentioned all cultural services would not be removed from ELVCC; does that include keeping programs, classes and services for Latinos?
97. We have experience resistance from ELVCC staff, excessive cost and rigid restrictions when trying for availability at the center. How can we make the center more accessible to our community?
98. The incentive programs have not addressed the needs of those that make a living as artist. Las Vegas needs an art arena; incentives should be given to artist who has business licenses. Self

employed cultural & arts businessmen should receive financial assistance equivalent being received on unemployment.

99. ELVCC is essential cultural center in the east side. What will center have if cultural programs are eliminated?
100. Invest in the arts. It is the only way we can diversify the economy.
101. As a teacher at a nearby H.S, I'm aware how these programs positively affect the young people of this community. Not having these programs can lead to more violence and gang activity.
102. The ELVCC was promised to this community as a facility to support the arts and culture. What can you do to keep this promise?
103. In Ward #3 the median household income is less than 28,000\$ raising fees at the ELVCC will put service out of reach for this community. How can you help address this concern?
104. Keep programs and fees low at the ELVCC, especially those geared to the Latino community.
105. After the reformatting of the Arturo Cambiero Center to an adult day care center, active Spanish speaking seniors were left without a place to attend activities. They are currently are not met with a warm reception and in their own language as before. How can you address this issue of exclusion?
106. Please keep in mind this center is primarily Hispanic and therefore should have the correct instructors of the services. This will help people join more and there will be no need to raise fees.
107. Why not work with the community to pay for the cleaning, desk operation and toiletries needed of the center.
108. Keep all the programs open. The center is a safe place for our families can gather and enjoy the classes.
109. English classes should be extended throughout the valley to improve education and lower unemployment.

Miscellaneous

110. Tonight's town hall meeting was not meant for the large Latino population in this area. We are tired of not being heard.

111. How is homelessness being address in particular in the east side and what kind of help are these people getting?
112. What medical services are being provided to LV residents?
113. Can you tell us if the census will not jeopardize the immigrant status? Why are there no any Asian museums in Las Vegas?
114. Do not let up on code enforcement and zoning compliance, we have worked hard to keep a status.
115. Is it necessary to cut on a driveway and street light construction?
116. What will happen with the questions that are not answered in the Town Hall meetings?
117. What would it take to change the 3 term rule, so that the Mayor can run again?
118. What is being done about the ICE raids?
119. We need jobs; we are losing our homes & personal possessions. What is being done about this?
120. Was there any focus groups and if so how many and how many participants?
121. The survey online list 972 responses with the majority unemployed and over age 66. Do you consider this an accurate depiction?
122. When and what percent of the population was surveyed?
123. Was the survey and focus group conducted geared towards Latinos? The majority of Hispanics do not have access to the internet.
124. I see many times streets that do not need to be repaired, why is money being spent on this?
125. We thank you for the translators at this town hall meeting.
- 126.
127. The city needs to show more interest in Latino needs in our community, not have more reductions.
128. In our some areas duplicates services are being provided by both private and public sector. Is any consideration being given to eliminating such services?
129. If the city feels that Latinos are important to the community, why is health care not given any importance?

130. I would appreciate more town hall meetings like this.
131. We need to have a distinction between true culture from our heritage and that which is provided by the glitz of the Las Vegas Strip. Let's focus on family's that actually leave hear and not the fantasy world.
132. What is the purpose for the Town hall meetings and how will it change the outcome?
133. What can be done about Hispanics not eligible to get driving licenses?
134. I can't get a modification on my home and I'm afraid I'll lose it. Please help me, Jaime Vargas 702-583-2267.
135. What kind of assistance is offered to handicap citizen of our community?
136. **I have concerns that:**
- A. Public service is minimized while spending at upper level of management continues covertly under scrutiny.
 - B. Middle and upper management positions are not being eliminated and why?
 - C. City Council has allowed months of scare tactics top plague the lower level city employees.
 - D. The fire dept. will once again make minimal concessions with no repercussion. Last year's negotiations resulted in the City Council applauding the City Manager for a "Job well done" on televised council Meeting broadcast.
 - E. Classified upper level employees will receive "quiet" compensation of non-salaried nature to compensate for anything reduced.
137. I hope you have invited the local HUD representative to this town hall meeting. As a tax payer I'm confused on how the Neighborhood Stabilization Program works. There is conflicting information